Written Questions for Test One  
  
These are for 15 points each. Please write at least 150 words for each. You can write them ahead of time and bring them in with you, or write them out in class.  
  
1. I asked you to come up with a topic for your 1000 word critical essay that will be due at the end of the semester (the day of the final day at the latest). Give me your topic – it’s up to you what you write about. I suggested something related to the primary election since that’s been topical, but you can go in any direction you choose. Here are some suggestions if you want:   
  
– Outline and describe a major source of conflict between the state of Texas and the national government. There’s lot’s to choose from: immigration, environmentalism, gay marriage, and education are just a few. Try to determine the course of the dispute (political culture?) and whether there may be a resolution to it – or not  
  
- Now that the primaries are over, we might get a general sense of what types of items might dominate the agenda of the Texas Legislature when it meets next January. Do some research and figure it out. Will they legalize marijuana? Casino gambling? Will they promote flying cars?   
  
- Discuss the evolving powers of the governor. Both Rick Perry and Greg Abbott seem to want a stronger governor and have been making subtle moves to expand it. How? Will they be successful? Should Texas have a stronger governor or not? What purpose would it serve?  
  
Feel free to come up with your own topic.  
  
  
  
2. This is for your personal responsibility assessment:   
  
Is it your responsibility to vote? Yes or no?   
  
Many of you don’t – and that’s fine. This isn’t about persuading you one way to do something you think is not with doing. But explain your decision.